

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of catalyst particles with a particle diameter in the range of 20-2000 to less than 1000 microns, which process comprises the steps of:

- a) agitating at least two dry catalyst ingredients,
- b) spraying a liquid binding agent on the catalyst ingredients while continuing the agitation,
- c) isolating formed catalyst particles with the desired particle diameter and comprising the catalyst ingredients, and
- d) optionally calcining the isolated catalyst particles.

Claim 2 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein agitation is performed by high-shear mixing.

Claim 3 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein agitation is performed by fluidization.

Claim 4 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein at least one of the catalyst ingredients is alumina, clay, or zeolite.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein the liquid binding agent is selected from the group consisting of water, an aqueous acidic solution, a silicon-containing solution or suspension, a suspension comprising aluminum chlorohydrate and/or aluminum nitrohydrate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (original): The process of claim 2 wherein the shear rate applied on the catalyst ingredients during high-shear mixing ranges from 250 to 100 s⁻¹.

Claim 8 (new): FCC catalyst particles or FCC catalyst additive particles having a particle diameter in the range of 20 to less than 1000 microns, wherein said particles are prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

- a) agitating at least two dry catalyst ingredients,
- b) spraying a liquid binding agent on the catalyst ingredients while continuing the agitation,
- c) isolating formed catalyst particles with the desired particle diameter and comprising the catalyst ingredients, and
- d) optionally calcining the isolated catalyst particles.

Claim 9 (new): A process for the preparation of catalyst particles with a particle diameter in the range of 20 to less than 1000 microns, which process comprises the steps of:

- a) agitating at least two dry catalyst ingredients suitable for use in the preparation of FCC catalyst particles,
- b) spraying a liquid binding agent on the catalyst ingredients while continuing the agitation,
- c) isolating formed catalyst particles with the desired particle diameter and comprising the catalyst ingredients, and
- d) optionally calcining the isolated catalyst particles.

Claim 10 (new): A process for the preparation of catalyst particles with a particle diameter in the range of 20 to less than 1000 microns, which process comprises the steps of:

- a) agitating at least two dry catalyst ingredients by fluidization with gas at a temperature of from 50°C to 700°C,
- b) spraying a liquid binding agent on the catalyst ingredients while continuing the agitation,
- c) isolating formed catalyst particles with the desired particle diameter and comprising the catalyst ingredients, and
- d) optionally calcining the isolated catalyst particles.